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IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 3, 10 and 11 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend Claims 1, 7 and 8 to read as follows:

1. (amended) A method for detecting the presence or absence of breast cancer in a non-lactating subject, comprising determining whether or not mammary gland sodium/iodide symporter (mgNIS) is expressed in breast tissue of the subject using an agent that specifically and selectively binds to mgNIS, wherein expression of mgNIS in the breast tissue is indicative of the presence of breast cancer in the subject, and no expression of mgNIS in the breast tissue is indicative of the absence of breast cancer in the subject.

7. (amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the expression of mgNIS is detected using at least one nucleic acid probe.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the nucleic acid probe is DNA.

Please add the following new claim 29.

29. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the nucleic acid probe is RNA.

Remarks

Claims 1-11 were pending in the above-identified application. By this Amendment, applicants have canceled claims 3, 10 and 11 without prejudice or disclaimer, amended claims 1, 7 and 8, and added claim 29, to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. No new matter is added by the claim amendments. Accordingly, entry of the claims as amended is respectfully requested.